Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program

Information, Status and New Initiatives

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What is an ACUB?

- Protects current installation land for training and testing
- Important element of long-term range sustainability
- Involves an agreement between an installation and partner(s) to address land use or development around the installation
  - Partners include state or local government or private conservation organization
  - Installation contributes funds towards partner acquiring land or interest in land from a willing private land owner
- Involves significant cooperation with stakeholders
- Cooperative Agreement obligates funds

What ACUB is *Not*

- *Not* a program to purchase additional Army lands
- *Not* a program to acquire additional training or testing areas
- *Not* the entire solution, but an important tool to assist in mitigating the impacts of encroachment on the installation's ability to "train as we fight"

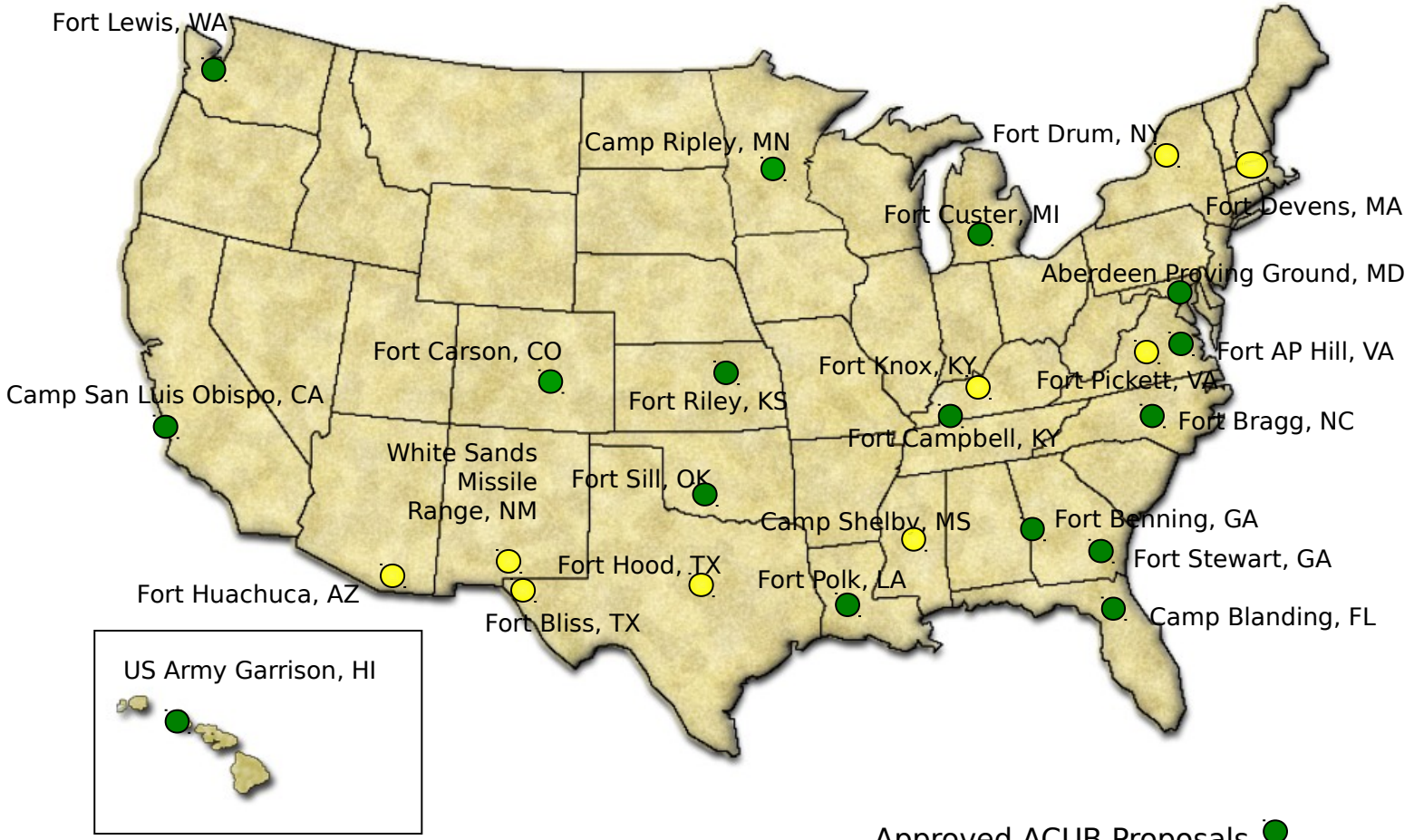
ACUB Details

- Proposals prepared locally, reviewed for approval up through HQDA
- Three-part process:
  - Proposal approval (evaluated for benefit to training)
  - Priority (according to strategic training importance and ability to affect encroachment)
  - Funding (dependent on priority, partner participation, level of cost-sharing and cooperation with other Services)
- Centrally managed and O&M funded
- Cooperating partner and willing seller are essential
- Cooperative Agreement through RDECOM, USAMRAA or NGB PARC obligates funds to partner

Land Protection Mechanisms

- Conservation easement:
  - Landowner retains ownership and rights to use land for limited purposes as specified in agreement
  - Some land or habitat management responsibilities in accordance with agreement
- Purchase of development rights:
  - Landowner retains title to land but with limited development potential
- Fee-simple purchase:
  - Purchase of property rights and title; most costly option

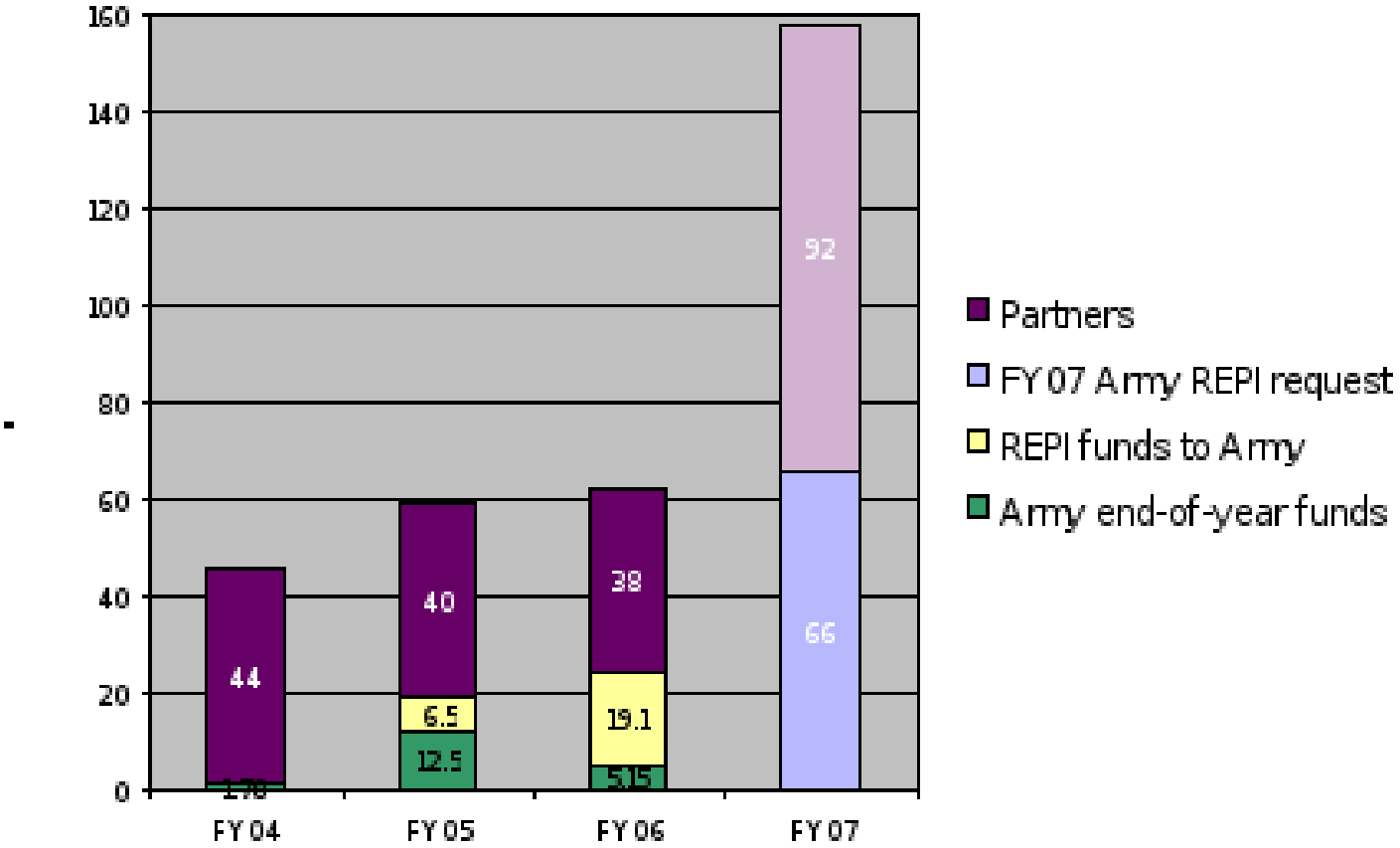
Current ACUB Status



Proposal status:

- 16 installations with approved ACUB proposals
- 9 additional proposals expected for FY07 review/approval

ACUB Program Funding Status



FY05 (5 Installations): $6.5M from OSD, $12.5M in ACSIM end-of-year funding

FY06 (16 Installations): $19.1M from OSD, $5.15M in ACSIM end-of-year funding

FY07 (20 installations): $66M requirement

FY05-06 ACUB Accomplishments

- Reducing the impacts of encroachment on our Installations:
  - Number of approved ACUB proposals increased fivefold to 16 at the end of FY06
- Supporting our Installations' ability to train Soldiers:
  - Over 54,000 acres of buffer area protected around our Installations to date
- Leveraging Army O&M funds:
  - FY05/06 ($17.1M) to receive over $25M in DoD buffer funds
  - Average 2:1 ratio in partner contributions

ACUB Program Initiatives

- ACUB Program Guidance Document under development
  - Outline roles and responsibilities
  - Articulate evolving guidance and policy
- G3 encroachment matrix and priorities under review
- HQ level outreach, partnerships and MOUs with Ducks Unlimited and NRCS
- Multiple benefit ACUB pilot (wetlands banking or conservation credits)
- Broad-based sustainability tool-set for comprehensive approach to sustaining military land and air capabilities into the future

ACUB Program Opportunities

- Capitalize on cooperative conservation momentum
- Demonstrate continued success and results to Congress for increased REPI funding
- Multiply leveraging opportunities
- Support Army Strategy for Environment and national environmental ethic